

the year as the NCHSAA sectional runner-up with an impressive 26–1 record. These awards are especially notable considering North Carolina is considered a powerhouse for high school basketball.

Five players were recognized for their individual accomplishments by being named All-Conference. They include Will Carpenter, Micah Carter, Tanner Cogdill, Mark Thompson, and Jackson Simmons. Jackson Simmons also went on to be named the Conference Player of the Year for his extraordinary play during the season. The team's recognition did not stop with just the players. Head coach Jimmy Cleaveland was named Conference Coach of the Year.

As a former student athlete in Western North Carolina, I understand the commitment it takes to compete at such a high level. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the many accomplishments by the Smoky Mountain High School Mustangs 2010–2011 Men's Basketball Team.

FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL  
CHOIR

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Flower Mound High School Choir. In 1999 the high school opened with the hope of becoming "A World Class School Educating Tomorrow's Leaders." Since then, Newsweek Magazine named it one of the "Top 1000 Best Public High Schools" in the U.S., based on AP scores. Of the school's many accomplishments, none resonate quite like the Flower Mound High School Choir.

The Flower Mound High School Choir regularly enjoys success at University Interscholastic League competitions as well as private competitions. Over time they have earned a slew of "Sweepstakes" awards as well as "Best of Class" and "Grand Champion" awards from all over the country. Students have also had the honor of performing throughout Europe, both at the Vatican and the Salzburg Cathedral. And just last week they were here in Washington D.C. to perform at the WWII Memorial. In their song choice, they sought to honor our nation's veterans.

It is heartening to know that this burgeoning generation continues to hold our veterans in such high regard. I want to thank the Flower Mound High School Choir for coming to our nation's capitol to honor our veterans.

HONORING ALEXANDER CHRISTIAN  
NASON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Christian Nason. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and the position of Senior Patrol Leader in his troop. Alexander has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alexander planned and supervised the construction of a storage closet for Liberty United Methodist Church in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Christian Nason for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS  
RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of swift U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. This decade-long war is costing our country tens of hundreds of lives and hundreds of billions of dollars. In 2010 alone, nearly 500 brave American men and women lost their lives, which is 63% more than the 2009 death toll. And as I speak, our government, which has vowed to reduce the deficit, has sent millions more overseas for a war with no foreseeable end. From 2008 to 2011, overall government spending has increased by 9%, while funding for the war in Afghanistan has increased by a startling 25%. As many of my colleagues demand \$100 billion budget cuts, they need look no further than our reckless war spending. For the good of our troops and the health of our economy, this war must end.

And this viewpoint is shared across the nation. According to a recent Washington Post poll, nearly two-thirds of the American people support an immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, our job in this chamber is to represent our constituents, and they have spoken loud and clear. The American people are fed up with a war that has done little to improve our national security or bolster our international standing. Furthermore, after nearly ten years of fighting, it is crystal clear that the problem in Afghanistan cannot be solved by military means alone. Stabilization and reconstruction, governance, and peace-building activities can help to stabilize states, promote rule of law, and bring enduring peace at a sliver of the cost we pay for troops on the ground.

Make no mistake about it: I firmly support our men and women in uniform. For this reason, we must bring them home from a battlefield with no real hope of military victory. I thank my colleague, Mr. KUCINICH from Ohio, for re-introducing this Resolution. I was proud to cosponsor it in the last Congress, and I will firmly offer my support today in hopes that we can finally end this war.

RECOGNIZING PENSACOLA STATE  
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
TEAM AS STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pensacola State College Women's Basketball Team on their recent victory as Champions of the 40th Florida Community College Activities Association Women's Basketball Tournament.

In 2010, the Pensacola State College Lady Pirates suffered a difficult defeat in the final seconds of the state semifinal game; however, under the leadership of Coach Chanda Rigby, PSC's players were able to use this defeat as motivation for their 2011 season. The Lady Pirates entered into the season with high expectations and ranked 14th nationally in the pre-season National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Poll.

After an impressive early season run, including a victory over the 5th ranked team in the Nation, the Lady Pirates soared to the ranks of 3rd in the Nation on November 17. The following week the Lady Pirates continued to rise in the rankings, moving all the way to the number 1 slot. The Lady Pirates did not let the pressure of being the top ranked team affect their performance, and they finished the regular season with a perfect record, 29–0, never relinquishing their place atop the polls.

Victories in their first two games of the Florida state championship set up a fourth meeting with nationally ranked Northwest Florida State College. The previous three meetings between these teams were highly competitive, with two of those three outcomes decided in overtime. The championship game was an equally competitive affair. Ultimately, however, the Lady Pirates' season-long goal was fulfilled, as they cut down the nets, improving to 32–0 and moving on to the National Junior College Athletic Association's national tournament, where they finished their season with a victory in the consolation game and the number 3 national ranking.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate the Pensacola State College Lady Pirates for their outstanding accomplishments. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to the players, coaches, faculty and staff at Pensacola State College for their continued success.

SOUTHWEST GUILFORD GIRLS WIN  
IT ALL

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2011*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the girls' basketball team of Southwest Guilford High School, located in the Sixth District of North Carolina, for winning their first 4–A state championship since 1985. The Southwest Cowgirls defeated their opponent, Raleigh Millbrook, in convincing fashion by a nine point margin with the final score of 44–35.

Southwest Guilford scored the first seven points and never relinquished the lead